

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

AID-05 CU-02 IO-13 DODE-00 /040 W

-----150951Z 045456 /10

R 150739Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6832

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 0682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SF

SUBJECT: SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEES

REF: A) STATE 17570, B) PRETORIA 4568, C) PRETORIA 5758,

D) PRETORIA 5915

1. SUMMARY: ONE OF LARGEST OF REFUGEE GROUPS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA CONSISTS OF BLACKS WHO HAVE FLED FROM FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA AND ARE NOW IN NAMIBIA. THORNY POLITICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH PRESENCE SOUTH AFRICA IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA HAVE TO DATE TENDED TO OVERSHADOW HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF ISSUE, BUT PROBLEM REMAINS AND COULD GROW. IN ADDITION TO MAJOR SUPPORT FROM SOUTH AFRICA, SOME ASSISTANCE IS REACHING REFUGEES THROUGH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS. END SUMMARY.

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2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS KEYED TO STATE 17570

OUTLINE:

A. SIZE OF REFUGEE POPULATION: OF THE INITIAL FLOW OF WHITE PORTUGUESE AND MULATTO REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA, RELATIVELY FEW REMAIN DEPENDENT ON GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT. THE MAJORITY OF WHITES WERE REPATRIATED, A

FEW, PROBABLY 500-1000, WERE ALLOWED TO STAY IN SOUTH AFRICA AND HAVE INEGRATED THEMSELVES INTO THE FABRIC OF NORMAL LIFE, AND OTHERS, NUMBER UNKNOWN, ILLEGALLY REMAINED IN NAMIBIA OR SOUTH AFRICA. NO SPECIAL ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE BY SAG TO LOCATE AND DEPORT LATTER GROUP. FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, NO WHITE REFUGEES REMAIN TO BE CONSIDERED. BUT THERE WAS AT ONE POINT A TOTAL OF ABOUT 11,000 BLACK ANGOLANS WHO WERE ALMOST TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. OF THESE, PERHAPS 2,500-3,000 REMAIN FROM THE MAIN FLOW IN LATE 1975 AND EARLY 1976. THE REMAINDER ARRIVED IN NAMIBIA DURING THE LAST QUARTER OF 1976 AS A CONSEQUENCE OF FIGHTING INVOLVING MPLA, SWAPO AND UNITA IN AREAS NEAR THE BORDER WITH SOUTH WEST AFRICA. THE NUMBER COULD INCREASE IF THERE ARE FUTHER SERIOUS CLASHES BETWEEN ANGOLAN FACTIONS IN THE BORDER AREA.

B. PROFILE OF REFUGEES: THE EARLY FLOW CONSISTED PRIMIARILY OF URBAN BLACK FAMILIES OR EMPLOYEES, PLUS A FEW OLD TO CHILDREN WERE INVOLVED. THE LATER AND LARGER NUMBERS CONSIST PRINCIPALLY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM SMALL VILLAGES OR TRIBAL AREAS. MOST OF THEM ARE OF THE KWANYAMA TRIBE, NUMBERS OF WHICH FORM A LARGE PART OF THE OVAMBO NATION OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA. THEY ARE UNEDUCATED, DESTITUTE AND, GIVEN THE PAUCITY OF USABLE LAND IN OVAMBOLAND, NO EASILY ASSIMILATED.

C. ASSISTANCE FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR OTHER SOURCES: A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER WHO HAVE DIRECT RELA-  
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TIONSHIPS WITH OVAMBOS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO INDIGENOUS VILLAGE LIFE. THE REMAINDER ARE BEING SUPPORTED IN SEVERAL REFUGEE CENTERS NEAR THE ANGOLA-NAMIBIA BORDER. THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMED FORCES PROVIDE VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE DIRECT SUPPORT INCLUDING FOOD, SHELTER AND MEDICAL TREATMENT. SOUTH AFRICA HAS CALLED THE SITU-  
ATION TO THE ATTENTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, BUT HAS RECEIVED NO ASSISTANCE FROM THAT SOURCE. SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS HAVE DONATED VERY SMALL AMOUNTS OF CLOTHING AND MONEY FOR THIS PROGRAM. THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HAS DISPATCHED BETWEEN 100 AND 150 TONS OF MATERIAL ASSISTANCE, BUT FURTHER CONTRI-  
BUTIONS ARE UNCERTAIN AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE AT THIS TIME. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GERMAN RED CROSS WHO RECENTLY VISITED THE AREA WAS TOLD THAT SEVERAL THOUSAND REFUGEES STILL REQUIRE SUPPORT IN CAMPS, BUT THAT MANY, PERHAPS HALF OF THE EARLIER 11,000, HAVE BEEN ASSIMILATED OR HAVE RETURNED TO UNITA HELD AREAS IN ANGOLA. TELEVISION COMMENTATOR SAID FEB 14 THAT SAG WAS COPING

WITH PROBLEM AND THAT REMAINING REFUGEES WERE MOSTLY IN  
RUNDU AREA, CAPRIVI STRIP.

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CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /040 W  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PRETORIA 0682

D. SAG HAS NOT REQUESTED US ASSISTANCE, AND WE  
HAVE NO REASON TO EXPECT SUCH A REQUEST.

E. ASSESSMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES:  
NO ASSESSMENTS OTHER THAN SAG STATEMENTS, AND MEDIA  
REPORTS BASED ON VISITS TO THE MAIN REFUGEE CENTERS  
(ON WHICH MOST OF OUR DESCRIPTION IS BASED) HAVE BEEN  
MADE. A GERMAN RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE SAID FEBRU-  
ARY 12 THAT THE EARLIER SEVERE PROBLEMS HAD BEEN  
SUBSTANTIALLY AMELIORATED BY ABSORPTION OF REFUGEE  
FAMILIES WITH CLANSMEN, OR REPATRIATION, BUT HE WAS  
NOT ABLE TO OBTAIN PRECISE FIGURES. HE HAD THE IMPRES-  
SION THAT THE SAG IS STEADILY REDUCING THE DIMENSIONS  
OF THE PROBLEM.

F. ASSISTANCE GAPS: BASIC NEED IS FOR ESSENTIALS  
OF LIFE--FOOD, CLOTHING AND SHELTER SUITABLE FOR HOT  
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CLIMATE--FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME, PLUS ONGOING  
ROUTINE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. NO SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OF  
EDUCATION OF OTHER SUPPORT HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED. IN TIME,  
RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE REQUIRED IF SUBSTANTIAL  
ADDITIONAL NUMBERS OF REFUGEES WERE TO CROSS FROM ANGOLA  
INTO OVAMBOLAND WITH THE INTENTION TO REMAIN  
PERMANENTLY. WE CANNOT FURTHER ASSESS NEEDS AT  
THIS TIME.

3. SAG RESIDENT REP EKSTEEN AT UNNY IS AMONG BEST  
INFORMED SAG OFFICERS ON THIS SUBJECT.  
BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** SREF, EAID, SF, AO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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